

the vast army of female outcasts whose teeth are white. When a member of the royal house dies the cremation ceremonies cost a fortune, and while thousands are witnessing the imposing display—terrible to relate, even—vultures are tearing dead bodies to pieces in the heart of Bangkok, and the poor are burning their dead, a couple of armfuls of wood serving as the funeral pyre. Nothing could be more dreadful.

It is singular that in a city of 800,000 people with such practices going on daily and no sanitary regulations whatever, there are no great and sweeping pestilences. As if to tempt providence still further there are no quarantine regulations and the refuse of kitchens is dumped wherever convenient, as likely in front of a palace as at the door of a hovel. Siam generally and its capital particularly we should pronounce excellent places to keep away from.

STREET CAR DANGERS.

Salt Lake City has had very few cases of children being killed and injured by street cars, and a few older people have figured in that class of calamities. As such casualties seem to occur wherever there are such cars and to increase when the cable or electricity is substituted for the plodding but more governable mule, it would seem that some measure of prevention should be adopted and as a preparatory step to such consummation the matter is receiving attention and discussion generally, though nothing has yet been agreed upon. One thing is about determined, however: that the gong which is sometimes used as a measure of warning and safety on street cars is apt to do more harm than good.

The New York *World* mentions the case of a little boy who was recently killed by a trolley car there and shows that it reveals a new danger to human life in that appliance intended as a safeguard, and brings into common notice what has hitherto been known only to explorers of physical and hypnotic phenomena. The boy was on the track directly in front of the car. His companions called out: "Look out, Charlie! Run!" Just then the motor-man struck the gong violently. Instead of running the boy turned white and stood perfectly still, as if unable to move, and was crushed to death.

Those who are interested in hypnotism and know something of hypnotic influences are here reminded of the experiments of the French doctor Charcot, who uses a loud gong to put patients into a mesmeric or cataleptic state, instead of the more familiar methods of staring into the subject's eyes, giving him a bright object to look at or pressing upon the top of the head; and it is shown that the boy spoken of was, as the saying is, "too frightened to stir." But, it is asked, is it not within the range of probability that he was hypnotized by the gong of the trolley car, so that the very appliance intended to be a warning of danger became the occasion of his death?

We can readily understand, as our cotemporary suggests, that the dangers to life attendant upon the trolley system are sufficient without this. First comes the electric current of high potentiality. It is known that its

shock will kill a horse, but the advocates of the system protest that it will not kill a man, though of course none of them has offered to take the full current himself to show its harmlessness. The greatest danger to life appears to be that which necessarily attends a rapidly moving heavy body careering along on the street level. Most people have comforted themselves with the thought that they could at least run away from the danger, but if one is likely to be stricken motionless in front of the juggernaut the situation becomes alarming. Most persons believe they are not susceptible to the mesmeric force, but who can say for certain that under some peculiar nervous condition he may not become a "hypnotic sensitive" and at the sound of the gong become unable to move from in front of the car?

It may be that only those of tender years are likely to be victims under such circumstances, and it may be, as we ourselves believe, that there is nothing in the theory at all. Still it is not without interest. Of course the railroad companies would not ruthlessly endanger life or limb and are willing to adopt any reasonable safeguard, which is one of the reasons why the press are at work on the question.

ANOTHER TICHBORNE CASE.

An interesting case was commenced in the United States circuit court for the southern district of Illinois last month, the sitting being in Springfield. It is in some respects a reproduction of the once famous but now forgotten Tichborne case, and is in fact called by the papers "Illinois's Tichborne case." The claimant is called by himself Bill Newby and by the government agents Daniel Benton. It is shown that in 1861 he enlisted in the army as a private. He went to the front and participated in the great battle of Shiloh, where, as is claimed and partially established by evidence, he was struck in the head by a fragment of shell, killed and buried. A pension of \$12 a month was awarded his wife and she has drawn it regularly ever since until the proceedings out of which the trial grew took place, when, having "recognized" Bill as her husband, she joins him in a claim for back pension money for himself which aggregates over \$25,000. It seems that he "turned up alive" at his old home in March, 1891, and after having established his identity to the satisfaction of several old friends gave the following account of himself:

He said that the blow inflicted on his head by the fragment of a shell, at the battle of Shiloh, had affected his brain and injured his reason. His memory disappeared almost entirely. He could not connect events. He was not even sure of his own name. But he had short periods of sanity, he said, and could recall a portion of his history after he was struck by the fragment of shell.

When the Union troops retreated and the Confederates advanced, he recovered consciousness and arose from the ground. But the Confederates were all around him and he was taken prisoner. They sent him to Belle Isle prison, at Richmond, Va. His head was very bad while he was there, and he had but a faint and disconnected recollection of

the events that happened while he was in the prison. But he was sure that an uncle named Charles Newby got him out of the prison, but when or how he did not remember, and took him to Florida. Neither does he remember how long he stayed in Florida, how he got away, or what became of the uncle, Chas. Newby. His next recollection was of being in the poorhouse at Mount Vernon, Ill. By this time he had about forgotten who he was, and he wandered about Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois, spending most of his time in poorhouses.

According to his own account, he must have been in fifty poorhouses altogether. He had come to the Mount Vernon poorhouse again in 1890, and while there the second time his head grew much better, and his memory improved, he said. He began to recall who he was. Gradually events grew clearer. Everything ran back to a great blur of flame and smoke, and the roar of cannon and the shouts of men. He tried hard to place that jumble of sights and sounds. At last he remembered that it was a great battle. He had been there and he was Bill Newby.

The government has a remarkably active and able pension examiner in the person of T. H. McBride. He went to work on the case and eventually made out a startling report, completely upsetting "Newby's" story at every point and giving the evidence for his position as he went along; whereupon the claimant was indicted by the grand jury on three counts—a fraudulent attempt to obtain a pension, making a false affidavit to a pension claim, and perjury. The limit of the punishment in each case is five years in the penitentiary.

The indictment was found in the same month that "Newby" came to light, and the case has been dragging its slow length along during all the intervening time. The government has sixty witnesses, the claimant more than twice as many, all the soldier element in the neighborhood including some people in high standing, being with him to a man. Able counsel appeared on both sides, and if the case has reached a conclusion the Associated Press, as is often the case, has failed to apprise us of it. The "identifications" may all be in the play, but it seems almost incredible. If the defendant is acquitted, of course that would amount in law to the establishment of his claim.

THE UTAH MAGAZINE.

The August number of this magazine is at hand with interesting articles on a variety of subjects and several illustrations. The place of honor is accorded to a treatise on the Higher Criticism of the Bible by Rev. David Utter, and this will be followed in the next issue by an article by J. M. Sjodahl discussing the question, Who wrote the Bible? The editor of the magazine, Dr. John R. Park, deserves credit for laying before the public subjects of general interest and presenting them from opposite points of view. Among the contents of the present number are papers on the Hawaiian Islands, the Zulu war, editorial comments on current events and poetical compositions.

WHATEVER THE London price of the white metal, Utah keeps up her golden record of silver weddings.